

Dialysis Dialogue



North Dakota Department of Health
Division of Health Facilities

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Welcome to the first edition of *Dialysis Dialogue*, a newsletter published by the North Dakota Department of Health, Division of Health Facilities. *Dialysis Dialogue* is designed to help dialysis departments stay up-to-date on various issues. Please share with your dialysis staff.

Name Change

On June 14, 2001, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) Secretary Tommy Thompson announced a new name for the Health Care Financing Administration (HCFA) – the federal agency that runs the Medicare and joint federal-state Medicaid programs. HCFA will now be called the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS).

Three new centers will comprise CMS: the Center for Medicare Management, the Center for Beneficiary Choices and the Center for Medicaid and State Operations (CMSO).

The name change is a step to give new direction and spirit to the agency and to more appropriately reflect its mission to serve millions of beneficiaries.



Epogen Use

Following an outbreak of *Serratia liquefaciens* infections and pyrogenic reactions associated with extrinsically contaminated single-use vials of Epogen, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention has placed emphasis on the importance of following the manufacturer's instructions for use.

Single dose vials of Epogen do not contain a preservative. The single dose vials of Epogen should not be re-entered, and only one dose per vial should be used with any unused amounts discarded.

Unlike single dose vials, multidose vials contain a preservative. The multidose vials should be discarded 21 days after the vial is first entered.

F.Y.I.

Baxter International, a leading kidney dialysis company, has withdrawn certain models of its hemodialysis filters from sale after they have been linked to the deaths of patients worldwide.

Be Thankful

The Baxter recall applies to its series A, AF and AX dialyzers labeled as Althane or Baxter. The company, based in Deerfield, Ill., said in a statement, "We believe we have uncovered the probable cause and felt a responsibility to make public our findings immediately, even though confirmatory studies remain under way. Our preliminary tests indicate that a fluid used in the manufacturing of a small number of these dialyzers is the likely cause of the tragic events. Still, we believe there remain substantive gaps in information about the facts associated with many of the patient deaths that will result in ongoing uncertainty. As such and given our overriding priority of patient safety, we've decided the most prudent course of action is to permanently cease manufacturing these dialyzers. We will be working with medical professionals, regulatory bodies, testing authorities, nephrology experts and families of the deceased to address all issues."

Facility Data Reports

The Balanced Budget Act required the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop and implement a method to measure and report the quality of services covered by Medicare. As part of this requirement, the CMS ESRD program developed facility data reports. The facility data reports contain 38 data elements including general information about the facility, patient demographic information and clinical care information such as infection control, adequacy of dialysis, anemia management and mortality. Each dialysis facility was mailed a copy of its data report in May 2001. During your next state Medicare certification dialysis survey, the surveyor will visit with you about your facility's data report.

- ~Be thankful that you don't already have everything you desire. If you did, what would there be to look forward to?
- ~Be thankful when you don't know something, for it gives you the opportunity to learn.
- ~Be thankful for the difficult times. During those times you grow.
- ~Be thankful for your limitations, because they give you opportunities for improvement.
- ~Be thankful for each new challenge, because it will build your strength and character.
- ~Be thankful for your mistakes. They will teach you valuable lessons.
- ~Be thankful when you're tired and weary, because it means you've made a difference.
- ~It's easy to be thankful for the good things.
- ~A life of rich fulfillment comes to those who are also thankful for the setbacks.
- ~Gratitude can turn a negative into a positive.
- ~Find a way to be thankful for your troubles, and they can become your blessings.
- ~Author Unknown~



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The North Dakota Department of Health ESRD staff wish each and every one of you a blessed and happy Holiday Season!